

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5 and 12 are amended. Claims 1 and 12 include some of the allowable subject matter found in claim 5. No new matter is added. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Entry of the amendment is requested under 37 CFR § 1.116 because the amendment: a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; b) do not present any additional claims without canceling the corresponding number of final rejected claims; and c) place the application in better form for appeal, if an appeal is necessary. Entry of the amendment is thus respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants appreciate that claims 3-11 and 15-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but will be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, it is submitted that claims 1, 2 and 12-14 are allowable for at least that claims 1 and 12 contain allowable subject matter.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Nemoto et al. ("Nemoto"), US Patent Publication 2002/0036161. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant submits that the rejection has been rendered moot as independent claims 1 and 12 have been amended to include some of the allowable subject matter found in claim 5. Namely, Applicant submits that Nemoto fails to disclose or suggest, *inter alia*, "a detecting substrate including an array of detecting means", as recited in amended claims 1 and 12.

Instead, Nemoto merely discloses test trays TST, and is completely silent of teaching a "detecting substrate". As shown in an example non-limiting embodiment, Fig. 4 illustrates a detecting substrate 140 provided on and attached to an upper portion of a transfer plate 110, and have detecting switches 130 mounted thereon in a configuration corresponding to installation holes.

Because Nemoto fails to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention, it cannot provide a basis for a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Claims 2 and 13-14 are allowable by virtue of their dependency on either independent claims 1 or 12. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

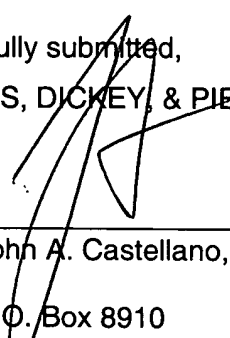
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant earnestly solicits reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By: 
John A. Castellano, Reg. No. 35,094
P.O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 668-8000

JAC/DJC:lmg